

Director's Report

June 2011

Sixty Years of Excellence, "Creating a Learning Community"

Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL) is turning 60 years old in July! MCPL was established as a library system when administrative control of seven formerly independent libraries -- Four Corners, Gaithersburg, Garrett Park, Noyes, Sherwood, Silver Spring and Wheaton -- began in July 1951.

Over the last 60 years, our library system has grown into a multi-faceted organization with 21 full service libraries, and a "Virtual" services branch that allows library users to connect with us beyond our physical walls.

In honor of our 60th anniversary, MCPL was presented with a [Proclamation signed by County Executive Isiah Leggett and County Council President Valerie Ervin](#) at a reception on June 3. Recognition of this occasion, noted in [a speech by Congressman Chris Van Hollen](#), also appears in the *Congressional Record* dated May 25, 2011.

Libraries play a vital role in the health of communities by providing resources and opportunities for lifelong learning for children and adults of all ages. MCPL is pleased to be a destination for learning and a community gathering place. Thank you to our customers, volunteers and staff who make our libraries – Where the County Reads, Where the County Meets, Where the County Learns.

Final Budget Update

The FY12 Operating Budget of \$28.5 million approved on May 26 represents a 1.6% decrease from the FY11 Operating Budget. The result is significantly better than the March 15 Recommended Budget for the Department of Public Libraries which would have resulted in a 9.7% reduction in funding.

On April 26, Mr. Leggett proposed an Amendment to increase his March 15 budget recommendation for MCPL by \$1.46 million to restore staff positions and \$1 million for the purchase of library materials.

The Amendment was due to the positive results from the Maryland General Assembly and Mr. Leggett's desire to increase his FY12 recommendation for MCPL.

The County Council approved the Amendment and found \$870,000 more to restore 14 additional staff positions.

We still have a way to go in terms of restoring our library service capacity. However, we made progress this year in achieving a shared understanding of the importance of library services and in beginning the process of reversing the trend of budget and service cuts experienced over the past several years.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our supporters and stakeholders who stood beside us during this challenging time.

Special Events for All Ages

MCPL will host three outstanding music programs during the month of June.

A selection of patriotic, popular, Broadway and folk music will be performed by the U.S. Navy Quartet at the Marilyn J. Praisner Library on Thursday, June 9, at 7 p.m.

On Saturday, June 11, from 1:30 to 4 p.m., the Aspen Hill Library commemorates Caribbean-American History Month with its Third Annual Caribbean-American Celebration. The program features live Caribbean music performed by the Caribbean American International Steel Orchestra.

On Tuesday, June 14, at 7 p.m., the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC will present a program of music at the Bethesda Library. Following the music performance, blogger Mike Bevel will present a lecture on homosexuality in the 19th century.

These programs are sponsored by Friends of the Library local chapters at each of these branches. The Gay Men's Chorus program is also sponsored by the Friends of the Library, Montgomery County, Inc. (FOLMC).

Summer Reading 2011

Summer Reading @ MCPL begins in 10 days. The program will take place from June 18 through August 13. Registration is online only through the library's website beginning June 15. Participants can sign up for the program and log the books they read using any computer in the library, at home or school, or using any mobile device. All Summer Reading programs are made possible through the generous support of the FOLMC and local Friends chapters.

This year's Summer Reading Program is offered on three levels:

Babies, Toddlers and Books! is for babies and toddlers, birth through pre-K. Parents and caregivers can sign up their children to listen to or read 20 books.

One World, Many Stories (Kids Read!) is for children in Kindergarten through grade six. Participants may sign up and read 10 books.

You Are Here (Teens Read!) is for teens in middle and high school. Participants may sign up and read four – or more – books.

Special Summer Reading Kickoff Events

Two special musical artists, Cathy Fink and ChristyLez Bacon will help MCPL kick off Summer Reading for children at the Aspen Hill Library on Saturday, June 18, at 11 a.m.

The Teen Summer Reading kickoff takes place at the Bethesda Library on Thursday, June 16, 5 p.m. featuring popular teen author, Sarah Dessen.

Do you know you can travel the world, learn new cultures and read for the fun of it all summer long? All you need to do is sign up for Summer Reading at your local public library.

Have a great summer.

B. Parker Hamilton
Director